KOBE Academic Talk: Possibilities of Atmospheric Studies

September 10, 2026 | 18:30–20:00
KOBE Co-Creation Center, Kobe | Hybrid Event

On September 10, 2026, researchers from the Kobe Institute for Atmospheric Studies (KOIAS) participated in a special edition of the KOBE Academic Talk series, organised by the University City Kobe Industry–Academia–Government Platform. The event, *Possibilities of Atmospheric Studies*, marked the first English-language session of the series and aimed to introduce the emerging field of Atmospheric Studies to a wider public audience.

Facilitated by Prof. Yuho Hisayama, Director of KOIAS, the event featured presentations by Alberto Parisi (KOIAS Special Project Assistant Professor) and Manuela de Mattos Salazar (KOIAS Fellow), bringing together philosophical, historical, and media-cultural perspectives on the study of atmospheres.

In his presentation, *Atmospheres of Breath*, Alberto Parisi explored the significance of breath, air, and spirit in European and Japanese philosophical traditions, examining how concepts such as *pneuma* and *ki* have shaped different understandings of human existence and experience.

Manuela de Mattos Salazar presented her research on the aesthetics of social media, focusing on how digital visual culture contributes to the creation and circulation of *cosy vibes*. Drawing on her research into Instagram and everyday aesthetics, she discussed how photographs of domestic environments can stage atmospheres of comfort, warmth, and belonging, and how these aesthetic practices relate to broader transformations in contemporary visual culture.

The presentations were followed by a discussion facilitated by Prof. Hisayama, connecting the two perspectives and inviting participants to consider how atmospheres shape everyday experience across different cultural and historical contexts.

Held in a hybrid format, with participation both at the KOBE Co-Creation Center and online, the event provided an opportunity to introduce KOIAS's interdisciplinary research to audiences beyond the university and to encourage dialogue between academic research and the wider community.




ALBERTO PARISI
Presenter

